

# JNM

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## Randoms

### Hope

*Desire and expectation rolled into one.*  
Ambrose Bierce

*The last thing ever lost.*  
Italian Proverb

*A pathological belief in the occurrence of the impossible.*  
Henry Louis Mencken

In this season of renewal and reflection, it is fitting to ask what the patron saints of nuclear medicine may leave in our holiday stockings. We have just come through a trying year. The fragility of the supply of molybdenum was brought into sharp relief, the number of bone scans continued to decline, and the realization struck home that while we have new radiopharmaceuticals, we need more new procedures. These events were countered by a growing interest in interventional procedures and the continued expansion of myocardial perfusion imaging. Positron imaging can now begin to boast of a larger role in clinical decision making, in addition to its increasing list of research applications. Manufacturers continue to bring us an embarrassment of riches in instrumentation, with many well-designed instruments and state-of-the-art computer systems.

We have much to be proud of. Our technology can determine receptor expression and measure perfusion, function and metabolic substrate utilization at the cellular level. It would seem that these measurements would be of great value to determine the status of an organ and forecast the likelihood of disease. In short, we are able to answer many of the questions of interest to the science of medicine. What we would like to know and what we need to know are different. To provide better care for our patients, we need to know about things that were seen by Versalius and Virchow, but which can be visualized in vivo with other imaging modalities. Anatomy is still king. The era of physiology and in vivo biochemistry, as necessary clinical tools for daily patient care, is still just over the horizon. Fortunately, each day, we take small steps up the mountain that will eventually let us see the vista.

So what will '93 bring for nuclear medicine?

We will extend the matrix of procedures we offer by seeking additional uses of our current array of radiopharmaceuticals and instruments while developing new agents. It will be a year of opportunity, as imaging with enhanced specificity plays a larger role in clinical decision making. This is the year nuclear medicine becomes more effective.

**H. William Strauss, Editor**  
*The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*